

tight over the top. This allowed for easy observation. The container was placed on top of the refrigerator where the temperature ranged from 27-29°C.

On 2 February the female was released at the capture site. On arrival home from an Easter holiday during 5-8 April the eggs had hatched after 67-71 days. Both hatchlings appeared to be healthy and very alert. They were measured (Table 1) and placed into an icecream container using grey sand as substrate with dead leaves and small rocks for shelter. They were extremely active, moving around the perimeter of the container. Their colour and pattern was the same as the adult — grey dorsally and black ventrally with yellow spots. Although juvenile *Menetia greyii* and a variety of insects were supplied no feeding or sloughing was observed before their release on 15 April.

Table 1: Egg and hatchling data for captive *Lialis burtonis*.

EGG		HATCHLING		
Size (mm)	Weight (gm)	SVL (mm)	TL (mm)	Weight (gm)
23 x 11	2.0	68	135	1.7
22 x 9	1.8	66	137	1.5

— BRADFORD MARYAN, 20 Ockham Street, Lynwood 6155

Whiskered Tern records from Rottnest Island — The Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* is not a marine species and usually occurs around large freshwater or brackish inland swamps and lakes, but it may be found occasionally visiting estuaries and sheltered seas (Serventy *et al.* 1971, *The Handbook of Aust. Seabirds*; Reader's Digest 1976, *Complete Book of Aust. Birds*; Storr and Johnstone 1979, *Field Guide to the Birds of Western Australia*). Rottnest Island has 10% of its surface area covered by a series of hyper-saline lakes, is 18 km off the coast, and there is no suitable habitat for the Whiskered Tern. Therefore, it is interesting when the birds appear as vagrants.

Our first record is of 10 Whiskered Terns flying around Herschell Lake at 0815 on 11 October 1983 (C.P. de R and D.A.S.). The birds were using a gently swooping flight, dipping down to the surface of the lake. They were seen later that day resting on the spit on the south side of Herschell Lake. The second record was made on 1 October 1985 when 6 birds were flying around Government House Lake (P.R.E., H.F.R. and D.A.S.), swooping down to the surface of the lake, apparently feeding. The third record was of one bird swooping low over Herschell Lake on 8 December 1986 (D.A.S.). All records were made under good light conditions, the birds were observed for some time and there was no doubt about the identity of the species.

— D.A. SAUNDERS, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research, P.R. EHRLICH, Stanford University, California, C.P. de REBEIRA, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research, H.F. RECHER, Australian Museum, Sydney.